

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Drawings:

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) because they must show an "alloy is formed entirely below the bottom surface of the layer of first material" as specified in the claims, and which is not shown in FIG. 2. (Office Action at Page 2).

FIG. 3B shows an alloy (325) formed entirely below the bottom surface of a layer of first material (377). Therefore, the objection should be withdrawn.

In the Claims:

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 11, 28-29, 31, and 35-45 are in this application.

Claims 3, 6-10, 12-27, 30, and 32-34 have been canceled.

Claims 1, 4-5, and 28 are currently amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 37-45 are new. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11, 31, and 35-36 were allowed. (Office Action at Page 6).

Claim 33 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. (Office Action at page 6).

Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 33 and intervening claims 3 and 30. Claims 3, 30, and 33 have been canceled. Therefore, as amended, claim 1 is allowable.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 1-3, 5, 28-30, and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pan (US 4,983,250) in view of Fujimoto et al. (US 5,829,125) (hereinafter "Fujimoto"). (Office Action at Page 4).

As discussed, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2, 5, and 28-29 depend from claim 1. Based at least in part on their dependencies, claims 2, 5, and 28-29 are also allowable.

Claims 3, 30, and 34 are canceled.

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pan and Fujimoto, and further in view of Mori et al. (US 5,821,627). (Office Action at Page 6).

Claim 4 depends from independent claim 1. As discussed, claim 1 is allowable. Based at least in part on its dependency, claim 4 is also allowable.

Conclusion:

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-2, 4-5, 11, 28-29, 31, and 35-45 are in condition for allowance. Early issuance of the Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge shortages or credit overpayments to Deposit Account No. 500393. A Fee Transmittal is enclosed in duplicate for fee processing purposes. The Examiner is invited to call Blayne Green at (503) 439-8778 if there remains any issue with allowance of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

INTEL CORPORATION

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